

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-10

IO-13 PC-05 ARA-10 /112 W

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O P 191300Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1858

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CG, FR, MO

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN INTERVIEW ON ZAIRE INTERVENTION

SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH JOURNALISTS, KING

HASSAN CLAIMS MOROCCAN FORCES ROUTED THE KATANGESE

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IN THEIR FIRST BATTLE, AND HAVE DETERMINED THAT

CUBANS ARE WITH REBELS IN SHABA. END SUMMARY

1. KING HASSAN GAVE INTERVIEW TO FOUR FRENCH JOURNAL-

ISTS APRIL 18. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF INTERVIEW

AS PUBLISHED IN FIGARO OF APRIL 19.

2. BEGIN TEXT: HASSAN: "ZAIRE, FAR FROM BEING AN AGGRESSOR, IS, ON THE CONTRARY DEFENDING ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. LIKE US, ZAIRE IS A MEMBER OF THE OAU. ZAIRE ASKED US FOR ASSISTANCE. IT IS THEREFORE NORMAL FOR US TO ANSWER THE APPEAL. FOR US, IT WAS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF AN AFRICAN RESPONSE, BUT ALSO AN ARAB RESPONSE. IN EFFECT, ZAIRE SHARES A COMMON BORDER WITH SUDAN WHICH HAS THE SOURCES OF THE NILE, WHICH HAS A BORDER WITH EGYPT AND WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE RED SEA ONLY 30 KILOMETERS FROM THE RED SEA. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THEREFORE FOR EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA TO WORK FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF THE SECURITY OF SUDAN IS COMPROMISED.

3. "HAVING SAID THAT, I DID NOT CONSULT ANY OTHER AFRICAN FRIEND BEFORE INTERVENING IN ORDER NOT TO PUT ANYONE IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION. CERTAINLY, SOME OF THEM HAVE OFFERED MORAL SUPPORT AND HAVE SENT MEDICINE AND FOOD. BUT I AM NOT DISAPPOINTED THAT OTHERS HAVE NOT JOINED IN ON THE MILITARY SIDE BECAUSE I DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING IN THIS AREA.

4. "AS FAR AS FRENCH ASSISTANCE IS CONCERNED, IT SEEMS COMPLETELY LOGICAL TO ME. EVEN THOUGH FRANCE HAS NO HISTORICAL ATTACHMENTS TO ZAIRE, THE LATTER IS NONETHELESS THE LARGEST FRANCOPHONE COUNTRY OF AFRICA AND IS SURROUNDED BY OTHER FRANCOPHONES. IN ADDITION, IF ANY COUNTRY FIRST TALKED ABOUT A EUROAFRICAN COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS, IT IS CLEARLY UNCLASSIFIED

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FRANCE, AND GENERAL DE GAULLE THAT PUSHED THIS IDEA. IN THIS RESPECT, DURING MY LAST VISIT TO FRANCE, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING CONFIDED TO ME DURING A TETE-A-TETE LUNCH: 'I OWE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF MY POLITICAL EDUCATION TO GENERAL DE GAULLE.' IT WAS THEREFORE NORMAL FOR ME TO CALL ON FRANCE AND HER CHIEF. BESIDES, BEFORE I EVEN KNOCKED ON THE DOOR, IT HAD BEEN OPENED."

5. FIGARO REPORTER: "THE PROBLEM OF MILITARY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND WAS THEN DISCUSSED, AND THE KING SHOWED THE FIRST REPORT THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM ONE OF HIS UNIT COMMANDERS."

6. HASSAN: "THIS OFFICER DESCRIBES THE BATTLE HE HAS JUST HAD WITH AN ENEMY BATTALION ON WHICH HE INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES WITHOUT SUFFERING ANY OF HIS OWN. ABOVE ALL, THANKS TO AN INTERROGATION OF A WHITE PRISONER, AND THANKS TO INTELLIGENCE GATHERED

FROM VILLAGERS, IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT THE

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O P 191300Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1859
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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PRESENCE OF CUBAN SOLDIERS IN ZAIRE IS ABSOLUTELY
CERTAIN. THIS IS A CAPITAL POINT.

7. "AS FAR AS THE FUTURE IS CONCERNED, OBVIOUSLY I
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CANNOT PREDICT. MOROCCO IS NOT A MILITARY SUPER-POWER. MOROCCO CANNOT HOPE TO SAVE AFRICA ALL BY ITSELF. MOROCCO WANTED ABOVE ALL TO APPEAL TO AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, AN ATTEMPT TO AWAKEN CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH CONSTITUTE THE WISE BUT ALL TOO SILENT MAJORITY OF AFRICA AS OPPOSED TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OAU WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY A HANDFUL OF AGITATORS. IT IS SAID THAT SILENCE IS GOLDEN, BUT SILENCE CAN ALSO SIGNIFY DEATH.

8. "IF WE WIN IN ZAIRE, IT WILL BE A VICTORY FOR ALL AFRICA. IF WE LOSE, WE WILL LOSE MEN OF GREAT VALUE, ALAS, BUT THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS. IN EFFECT, TO ORGANIZE THIS EXPEDITIONARY CORPS OF 1,200 COMBATANTS, I RECEIVED 4,800 OFFERS TO VOLUNTEER FROM THE MILITARY UNITS THAT I APPROACHED."

9. FIGARO REPORTER: "THE SOVIET NOTE IN REACTION TO THE INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE INSPIRED THE FOLLOWING NUANCED SENTIMENTS FROM THE MOROCCAN KING."

10. HASSAN: "THE SOVIET NOTE POSES ABOVE ALL A PROBLEM OF LOGIC. IN EFFECT, THE CURRENT SOVIET POSITION IS IN TOTAL CONTRADICTION WITH THE ONE THEY ADOPTED EARLIER DURING THE LAST KATANGA WAY. IN THOSE DAYS, THEY RUSHED TO SEND ARMS TO THE FORMER BELGIAN CONGO TO HELP DEFEAT THE INFAMOUS KATANGESE GENDARMES. NOW, THEY REFUSE TO PERMIT ANYBODY TO HELP ZAIRE DEFEND AGAINST THE SAME KATANGESE GENDARMES. THERE IS A CERTAIN CONTRADICTION THAT NEEDS TO BE SOLVED.

11. "ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL THAT THE US DOES NOT WANT TO INTERVENE IN ZAIRE SINCE ANY ACTION ON THEIR PART RISKS ASSUMING DANGEROUS DEMENSIONS. BUT WHY DOES MR. YOUNG, US PERMREP AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UN, DECLARE THAT SOME 10,000 CUBANS IN ANGOLA ARE ONLY AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS AND THAT THEY CONSTITUTE A STABILIZING ELEMENT FOR AFRICA, WHILE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE HABIB ASSURES ME THAT MR. YOUNG IS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF, AND THAT US POLICY IS DIFFERENT?"

12. FIGARO REPORTER: "ONE OF THE MAIN CONCERNS

EXPRESSED BY HASSAN WAS ABOUT THE SIMULTANEOUS
PRESSURE EXERTED BY ALGERIA AGAINST MAURITANIA AND
BY LIBYA AGAINST SUDAN."

13. HASSAN: "THERE IS A TRAPEZE TYPE OF ASSAULT
WHICH COMES FROM A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. BY DENOUNCING
IT, I LOOK LIKE A SPOILER. TOO BAD, THERE HAS TO
BE SPOILERS FROM TIME TO TIME. TO BE FRANK, THE
SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN LIBYA IS BECOMING MORE AND

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MORE ALARMING. WE CAN LIST IT AS FOLLOWS: SEVEN THOUSAND MEN, 800 TANKS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE LASER GUIDED GUNS AND SOME T72'S WHICH EVEN SOME WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE, AND FINALLY ABOUT 100 UNCLASSIFIED

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AIRPLANES WHICH THE LIBYANS WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF FLYING THEMSELVES BEFORE THIRTY YEARS. NOT TO SPEAK OF SUBMARINES OFF THE COAST. WE SEE HERE AN ARMS AND LOGISTIC BASE WITHOUT EQUIVALENT IN AFRICA. THIS IS FOR WHOSE BENEFIT. I DON'T KNOW. BUT CERTAINLY NOT FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE."

14. FIGARO REPORTER: "ON THE OTHER HAND, HASSAN SHOWS SOME OPTIMISM WITH RESPECT TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

15. HASSAN: "WE HAVE NEVER BEEN SO CLOSE TO PEACE. ON AN INTELLECTUAL LEVEL, THE NEW GENERATION OF ARABS IS MUCH MORE REALISTIC THAN THEIR ELDERS, AND REALIZE THAT THE SLOGAN 'ISREAL TO THE SEA' CAUSED US A GREAT DEAL OF HARM.

JUST IMAGINE A PEACE WITH RECIPROCAL DIGNITY, INCLUDING OBVIOUSLY THE RESTITUTION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. FROM THAT POINT, ALL HOPES ARE PERMITTED. I CAN FORSEE VERY WELL IN TEN YEARS A GREAT UNION OF MEN AND WEALTH WITH ARAB PETRODOLLARS, THEIR NEW GENERATION OF EXECUTIVES, FIVE MILLION PALESTINIANS WHO ARE THE BEST EDUCATED OF ALL PEOPLE, THE CREATIVE GENIUS OF ISRAEL, AND THE FRIENDS OF ISRAEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AT THAT POINT, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE THE SECOND ECONOMIC POWER IN THE WORLD?" HARLAN

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TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, FR, MO, (HASSAN II)
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